

Ohio Auditor in Painesville to release shared study results

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Yost said. Sometimes equipment is only used once a month or seasonally.

Ohio Auditor Dave Yost appeared Tuesday in Painesville to discuss the results of a shared services study of capital equipment use in all 24 Lake County communities.

Yost said he chose Lake County for the first-of-its-kind study in Ohio because so many local governments agreed to cooperate to provide data and to explore the possibilities of shared services.

Many communities in the county and around the state have equipment that isn't used frequently, but until a new law passed last fall, the concept of sharing that equipment was prohibited,

The study released Tuesday is a utilization study, the first of a two-part process to find cost avoidance and cost savings opportunity, the auditor said.

He credited local officials for their courage to look at a new way to conduct operations.

"These 24 Lake County governments are the first in the state, not merely to recognize that, but to act on it," Yost said. "Using an asphalt paver one week in a season just does not make sense. There is money to be saved here, and these governments have decided to go looking for it."

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Results

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The study began with a preliminary overview of more than 1,000 pieces of equipment used by nine cities, nine villages, five townships and Lake County, with a statistical study done on 390 pieces of seasonal and nonseasonal equipment for road repair, utility maintenance and construction activities.

Utilization rates ranged from as low as 3 percent to as high as 36 percent.

The report also previewed organizational options to allow equipment sharing to boost usage rates and lower costs. These options to collaborate will be further developed in the second part of the share services study.

Lake County Commissioner Daniel P. Troy said resources for government have become more finite.

"For some communities it's almost essential that they share some services, because I don't think they are going to be able

Read the study and hear more from auditor Dave Yost at www.News-Herald.com

Mentor City Manager Ken Filipiak said the Auditor's Office has helped make communities more aware of opportunities to share equipment especially if they may be contemplating purchases.

Filiplik also believes it would be helpful if equipment might be shared with state agencies.

"ODNR owns a number of dredgers and maybe there could be some opportunity to cooperate with them," he said. "There

are four or five communities that come spring time dredge our channels along the lake."

Willoughby Mayor David Anderson said he looks forward to a hard look at the report to find out what might be done.

"This study has shown what is statistically possible," Anderson said. "We have to figure out what is, in reality, possible to do if we're going to continue the timely delivery of services to our residents."